

THE FIRST FRUITS

PRODUCE *students*

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 26: 14-24 NIV

"10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:"

Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV

9 "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Nehemiah 10:35 KJV

"And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD:"

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 KJV

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

DID YOU KNOW???

- **What does firstfruits even mean?**
 - **The firstfruits are top 10% of any of your increase. The Lord said that 10% off the top belongs to His church. This includes:**
 - **Income**
 - **Any financial increase because it all comes from Him.**
 - **The very top is the gross income not the net.**

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

According to CDF Capitol only about 5% of churchgoers tithe. In other words, about 1 out of 25 saints support their church faithfully with tithes. Although, few realize the major blessings to be had in doing so! CDF Capitol also reported that "Consistent giving fosters a deeper understanding of stewardship. It encourages Christians to become intentional and thoughtful about their resources and ultimately impacts their financial health across the board. When Christians decide to become serious about their giving, they often find that they are more responsible with 90% than they ever were with 100%. Statistics show that tithers are half as likely (20% vs. 40%) to be overdue on credit card payments and 28% of tithers are debt free." What college student wouldn't like to be an excellent steward with no debt and added blessings?

It is God's intention for us to be good stewards, debt free, and to pay our tithes. The bible says, "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" 1 Corinthians 4:2. Furthermore, the bible says to owe no man! We need to ask ourselves if God can trust us with the finances he pours into our pockets.

When I was in college, I paid my tithes faithfully, and if God asked me to give extra, I would. There were so many times that I would have 20 dollars in my wallet, and God would say to my heart, "Give it!" I would, and every time he doubled my money somehow! You see when God can trust you with finances, he tends to just keep pouring into you! He says, "now there is someone I can trust and use to further my kingdom! That's exactly how I want God to see me!

Lastly, our church needs our support! From biblical days to present, God decided that it was the saints responsibility to support the church and the pastor! I want to do what he has asked me to do! For one, it is a blessing to be trusted. For two, I love my church, and I want to see it flourish!

WHERE DO I START?

Do you tithe? If not, start now! God loves a cheerful giver!

Can God trust you to give extra? Listen carefully! I bet you will find that if he asks you to give extra, he has prepared extra for you. You don't need a lot to impress God. He is looking for a willing heart only!

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

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